

**ABSTRACT**

The apparatus comprises:

- a straight counter-rod (4) which during the final stage of the wrapping cycle is raised, arranged vertically and brought up alongside the bottom part of the load, at the correct distance from the latter, so as to ensure that at least the last turn of the wrapping rests on this rod so as to create in the side and bottom part of the said wrapping a pocket (S) of suitable amplitude which is open both upwards and downwards and inside which a portion of the said last turn is sufficiently spaced from the load;
- means for stopping the wrapping machine when the tail end of the wrapping, which is wholly or partly overlapped by the turn forming the pocket, is at a small distance or touches the said pocket (S) with the associated internal forming rod (4);
- means (21, 24) for transversely compressing into a bundle at least one section of the tail end of the wrapping, and a secondary gripper (321) and a primary gripper (22) for retaining successive portions of the said bundle of film;
- means (23) for cutting the section of film along the section comprised between the said two grippers (321, 22) so as to define the tail end of the wrapping (X) which is retained by the secondary gripper (321) and the front end (Y) of the future wrapping which is retained by the main gripper (22);
- means for inserting the secondary gripper (321) with the tail end of the wrapping into the said pocket (S), with insertion from the top part of the said pocket, and means being envisaged for opening this gripper and for extracting it from the pocket and bringing it back into the rest position;
- means which extract from the bottom part of the pocket the rod (4) which formed it, bringing this rod into the rest position such that, owing to the elastic memory effect of the wrapping film, the pocket is closed.